

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 8-19 are withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 4-20 are canceled herein without prejudice. In light of these amendments and the following remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims to issue.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Office Action indicates that claims 2 and 3 are allowable.

I. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Office Action states that claims 1-20 are restricted into the following groups:
Group I (claims 1-7 and 20), drawn to methods for identifying compounds that modulate the guanine nucleotide exchange cycle of RAS superfamily GTPase and compositions;
Group II (claims 8-11), drawn to methods for treating cancer;
Group III (claims 12-15), drawn to methods for treating neurological disorders; and
Group IV (claims 16-19), drawn to methods for modulating the guanine nucleotide exchange cycle of RAS superfamily GTPase in a cell.

The Office Action further states that pursuant to a February 25, 2009 telephone conference between Examiner Martinell and applicants' representative, Dr. Mary Miller, the claims of Group I (claims 1-7 and 20) were provisionally elected with traverse. The Office Action also states that affirmation of this election must be made in replying to this Action.

Applicants affirm the election of the claims of Group I (claims 1-7 and 20) and identify claims 1-7 and 20 as encompassing the elected invention.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action states that claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting this rejection and applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Office Action states that claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting this rejection and applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Office Action states that claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Stephen et al.

Claim 20 is canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting this rejection and applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

V. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action states that claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Shoemaker et al.

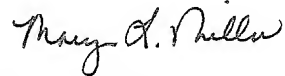
Claim 20 is canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting this rejection and applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

Having addressed all of the issues raised in the present Office Action, applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned directly, if such contact will expedite prosecution of the pending claims to issue.

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No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,

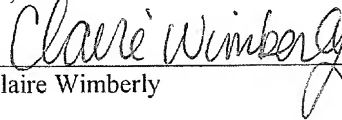


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CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 23, 2009.



Claire Wimberly